



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

HEALTH & FOOD SAFETY DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

Health systems, medical products and innovation

State of health, European semester and Health Technology Assessment

EXPERT GROUP ON HEALTH SYSTEMS PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

29TH MEETING

15 FEBRUARY 2023, 11:00 – 16:00

VIRTUAL MEETING

MEETING MINUTES

Participants:

Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Czechia, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Norway, the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies, OECD, WHO Europe and the European Commission (DG SANTE, DG RTD).

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1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

The co-chairs opened the meeting. **The Member States' co-chair** explained that with the extended scope of the mandate of the group (based on the revised Terms of Reference), countries are welcome to nominate in total two regular participants to the group. New nominations should ideally have expertise in the new working strand on “strategic innovative approaches to strengthening health systems”. New nominations should be submitted to the HSPA Secretariat by e-mail.

For potential subgroups/ working groups it is possible to nominate experts from the national authority on an ad hoc basis. These can be appointed from outside the membership of the Expert Group.

Participants were reminded to register the participants in AGM before each plenary meeting.

2. 2021 PRIORITY TOPIC – PREVENTION REPORT

The Member States' co-chair thanked the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies on the good draft report and thanked all members who contributed to the report. The report is currently being fine-tuned. Members of the Expert Group will receive a final version before it will be published by the Commission. Regarding the list of indicators, the group agreed to have a separate Annex to the report listing all the indicators from the survey in alphabetical order.

The report will be published on the Commission's webpage. The group will consider the possibility of holding a launch event on the health policy platform as well as potential presentations in other EU level groups such as the NCD healthier together initiative.

3. 2022 PRIORITY TOPIC – VALUE-BASED HEALTHCARE

The OECD presented past reports and work on wasteful spending and low-value care and showcased concrete examples. The presentation also raised potential research and policy questions.

Hungary presented its healthcare reform with a focus on patient centred value-based healthcare. The focus lays on the prioritisation of prevention, strengthening primary care, and the transformation of specialised care, combined with a quality assessment.

The Commission's co-chair thanked OECD and Hungary for their excellent presentations. Regarding the future work on this topic for the Expert Group, she explained that on 24 January, the exploratory group on value-based healthcare took place. The exploratory group had agreed to separate the sub-topic 'patient perspective' from the wasteful spending/ low value-care angle. The focus of a HSPA report will be on low-value care and its de-implementation. On the patient perspective, the OECD will present the Patient-Reported Indicator Surveys Initiative (PaRIS) during the next HSPA plenary meeting to inform all members about this project. Any follow-up actions can be discussed after that. For the report on low-value care, the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies agreed to support the drafting process. The HSPA Secretariat presented an outline for the report based on the discussions in the exploratory group. The Expert Group agreed on the presented approach which includes a survey to MS about how they are identifying and addressing low value care. The group raised several questions such as:

- Should the report focus on a certain sector such as primary care, nursing care, hospitals, telemedicine?
- One angle could be to look at guidelines and if they are followed.
- bottom-up and top-down solutions should be presented.

Participants were asked to send further feedback in writing by 28 February to the HSPA Secretariat. This will be followed up by a meeting of the exploratory group.

4. EUROPEAN HOSPITAL LABEL

France presented the latest developments as regards the concept of the European Hospital Label with a focus on cross-border settings. France is preparing a mapping on already existing forms of cooperation and barriers in the field of cross-border healthcare. France also mentioned their interest in a Joint Action on this topic under the EU4health programme. **DG SANTE** stressed that for a Joint Action, a critical amount of Member States needs to support the concept and that support can be expressed via the Steering group of the EU4Health Programme. **The Member States' co-chair** asked France to prepare a one-pager on the initiative to share with

members of the Expert Group to assess their level of interest. Member States also stressed that France should clearly indicate that the concept avoids duplication to already existing practices and initiatives such as the European Reference Networks (ERNs).

5. HSPA AND GOVERNANCE

Germany presented a questionnaire that they prepared to support the implementation of their national HSPA framework. The idea is to map the HSPA governance structures and different ways of implementing HSPA in Member States. Members of the group were asked to submit any feedback they may have to improve the questionnaire by 22 February 2023. Countries will be asked in a separate e-mail to fill out the questionnaire. The Technical University (TU) of Berlin is supporting the work and plans to publish the final results. Members of the group suggested having a joint publication of TU Berlin and the HSPA Expert Group. The option will be discussed with co-chairs, Germany and TU Berlin. It was also suggested that Germany can organise a seminar in Germany to discuss the way forward for Germany's HSPA.

6. FOLLOW-UP DISCUSSION ON NEW PRIORITY TOPICS

The Commission's co-chair recalled that during the last plenary meeting on 14 October, DG SANTE organised a workshop to brainstorm and collect topics to inform the future workplan of this expert group. Out of the list of ten topics in total, the plenary meeting of 15 February 2023 discussed members' preferences regarding the top five topics:

- Health workforce: shortages, planning, support, skills mix, retention
- HSPA governance: framework, indicators, resources, use in policy making, budgeting, best practices
- Mental health: youth mental health, reimbursement of mental health services
- Health inequalities: measuring at level of community and primary care
- Environmental impact: greening, medical waste, wastewater, carbon footprint, telemedicine

The group agreed that all these topics are relevant and should be part of the future work plan. **The Commission's co-chair** mentioned that on workforce and mental health, there are ongoing and new actions at EU level and that the group will need to see how this fits together in order to avoid duplicating work. She suggested forming small working groups for each topic to define the concrete scope and to discuss potential approaches. The HSPA Secretariat will prepare a template that will be circulated to the Expert Group where people can indicate in which working group they wish to contribute. Ideally, first ideas/ outcomes should already be discussed during the next plenary meeting in June 2022.

7. EU4HEALTH-FUNDED PROJECTS ON HEALTH SYSTEMS AND WORKFORCE

DG SANTE gave an overview of a selection of EU4Health-funded projects related to health systems and health workforce.

8. AOB AND CONCLUSIONS OF THE MEETING

The Member States' co-chair asked participants to send topics for the next plenary meeting to the HSPA Secretariat. He encouraged Member States to share health system reforms and related actions. The next plenary meeting is tentatively planned for 28 June 2023. The Member States' co-chair asked whether a participating country would be interested to host the event. If yes, they should inform the HSPA Secretariat by e-mail. If not, the meeting will take place in Brussels depending on room capacities of Commission premises.